

Meeting Notes By Sijbrand:

Physics Education (CEF4) Zoom meeting on 21 July 2020, 19:00-20:20 CEST

Present:

Ketevi Assamagan, Sarah Dremers, Sijbrand de Jong (scribe), Scott Kravitz,

Tiffany Lewis (2nd half), Sudhir Malik, Azwinndini Muronga

Excused:

Randy Ruchti

1. Input from the general CEF meeting on 15 June

Linking to other CEF groups:

- which initiatives should we join ?
- which Lols from us should we ask others to join ?

Going through the other topical groups:

CEF1: Applications & Industry

No overlap was spotted in either direction.

CEF2: Career Pipeline & Development

Already in the CEF meeting on 15 June, it became clear that there is significant overlap in the focus areas of CEF2 and our group.

In our group we have discussed in the past how managerial and technical

skills can be acquired by post-docs, tenure track and other junior faculty to position them optimally for their next career step.

In this context (but not exclusively in this context) mentoring is an important tool.

An LOI for a white paper to investigate training resources for post-docs and junior faculty, both at universities and national labs should be considered.

It is clear (to us) that our LOI proposals 4 (Study of New Mechanisms for Faculty Collaboration across Academia) and 5 (Study of the Potential

for a new Masters Degree in Applied Physics) touch strongly on career

paths and should be integrated with CEF2 ideas.

In this context also training technicians and engineers was mentioned. (Which seemed to make sense in the discussion, but is a bit of an isolated comment in these notes.)

CEF3: Diversity & Inclusion

In the CEF meeting on June 15 meeting there were no obvious overlaps

presented. It was felt that our LOI proposals 4 (Study of New Mechanisms

for Faculty Collaboration across Academia) and 5 (Study of the Potential

for a new Masters Degree in Applied Physics) may also be important tools

to create wider access to our research field.

It was also noted that equity and justice should to be addressed in any initiative, i.e. also in all our LOIs.

CEF5: Public Education & Outreach

Supprisingly little overlap was spotted from the information given at the CEF meeting on June 15.

However, during the meeting it became clear that the CEF5 topical group may be under the impression that primary, middle and high school

physics education was to be covered by the CEF4 (our) topical group.

Sijbrand and Sudhir explained that our topical group would be very much willing to take this on board, but Breese advised against this, because he thinks these are CEF5 issues.

The topic of secondary school teachers and the AAPT came up. There is

contact with teachers through QuarkNet, with which Randy is in contact.

Whichever group deals with primary, middle and high school physics education is also the natural place to deal with physics education research.

Sarah is going to discuss this in the CEF5 meeting later in the day

and will come back to us by email on who is going to take care of this line of physics education.

CEF6: Public Policy & Government Engagement

It was noted that any change in e.g. curriculum will need public and government support to be able to succeed.

During the discussion, the question on how to settle overlaps and white spots in LOIs was raised. From the perspective of our group we will pro-actively contact other groups where we see overlaps or white spots and see how to resolve them on a bilateral basis first. Ketevi will set into motion that all topical groups post their LOI proposals well in advance, e.g. with a deadline in 2 weeks from now, so that all topical groups can take note and if needed act on the proposals from the other topical groups.

2. Preparing the Letters of Intend (submission before end August)

This point was not further discussed.

*. AOB and conclusion

Sarah brought up other ways of teaching, e.g. in partnership with art. She mentioned an initiative with dancers which was quite successful. This is certainly something our topical group very much welcomes. It may be difficult to fit into one of the 5 LOIs proposals that we presently have. If primary, middle and high school education are taken on board in our topical group, it may contribute to LOIs in that direction and to our present LOI proposal 1 (Particle Physics Instruction at Undergraduate and Graduate Levels). However, maximum attention may be created by a separate LOI. This should also interest topical group CEF5 (Public Education & Outreach). Sarah is encouraged to work out her ideas.

Sijbrand concluded the meeting by saying he would write these notes. Our topical group is eager to hear the CEF5 opinion on which topical group should cover primary, middle and high school physics education.

Sijbrand will contact CEF2 and CEF3 convenors on the overlap we see and find out their views. We will hear back from CEF5 via Sarah.